

### Amendments to the Claims

1. **(Currently amended)** A thermoplastic elastomer, which comprises, as a constituting unit, a polyether component (A) and a polyester component (B), wherein the polyether component (A) comprises poly-oxyalkylene groups ( $-C_nH_{2n}O-$ ) having a carbon/oxygen atomic ratio in a range from 2.0 to 2.5, the polyester component (B) has a number-average molecular weight in a range from 500 to 10,000 and comprises polybutylene terephthalate in an amount of 40 to 90 weight %, the thermoplastic elastomer has a content of polyether component (A) in a range from 50 to 95 weight %, and the thermoplastic elastomer has a glass transition temperature of not more than  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

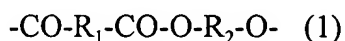
2. **(Original)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyether component (A) is bonded with a poly-isocyanate component (C).

3. **(Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyether component (A) has a number-average molecular weight in a range from 500 to 5,000.

4. **(Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyether component (A) comprises a polyethylene glycol component.

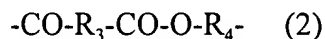
5. **(Cancelled)**

6. **(Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyester component (B) comprises 50 to 100 weight % of a short-chain polyester component represented by the following formula (1) and 50 to 0 weight % of a long-chain polyester component represented by the following formula (2):



wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is (i) a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms and/or (ii) a divalent alkylene group of 2 to 10 carbon atoms, or a divalent cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon

group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R<sub>2</sub> is an alkylene group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms and/or a divalent cycloaliphatic radical of 6 to 12 carbon atoms;



wherein R<sub>3</sub> is (i) a divalent aromatic hydrocarbon group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms and/or (ii) a divalent alkylene group of 2 to 10 carbon atoms or a divalent cycloaliphatic hydrocarbon group of 6 to 12 carbon atoms; R<sub>4</sub> is a repeating unit of -R<sub>5</sub>-O-, and R<sub>5</sub> is an alkylene group of 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

**7. (Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyester component (B) comprises a dicarboxylic acid component having a molar ratio of aromatic dicarboxylic acid groups to aliphatic dicarboxylic acid groups in a range from 100:0 to 40:60.

**8. (Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyester component (B) comprises a diol component having a molar ratio of linear aliphatic diol groups to cycloaliphatic diol groups in a range from 100:0 to 40:60.

**9. (Cancelled)**

**10. (Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the poly-isocyanate component (C) comprises (i) an aliphatic poly-isocyanate component, (ii) a cycloaliphatic poly-isocyanate component or (iii) a poly-isocyanate component in which the isocyanate group is not directly bonded to an aromatic ring.

**11. (Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 2, wherein the poly-isocyanate component (C) comprises a diisocyanate component represented by the following formula (3):



wherein R<sub>6</sub> is an alkylene group of 2 to 15 carbon atoms, a divalent cycloaliphatic

hydrocarbon group, a phenylene group, a methylene group, or a composite radical of alkylene group and phenylene group.

**12. (Currently amended)** A thermoplastic elastomer, which comprises, as a constituting unit, a polyether component (A) and a polyester component (B), wherein:

- 1) the thermoplastic elastomer has a water absorption ratio in a range from 50 to 200 weight %,
- 2) the thermoplastic elastomer has a storage modulus of elasticity at 40°C in a range from  $1 \times 10^6$  Pa and  $25 \times 10^6$  Pa,
- 3) the thermoplastic elastomer has a glass transition temperature of not more than  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ , and
- (4) the polyester component (B) has a number-average molecular weight in a range from 500 to 10,000 and comprises polybutylene terephthalate in an amount of 40 to 90 weight %.

**13. (Previously presented)** A thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 12, wherein the polyether component (A) comprises poly-oxyalkylene groups ( $-\text{C}_n\text{H}_{2n}\text{O}-$ ) having a carbon/oxygen atomic ratio in a range from 2.0 to 2.5, the thermoplastic elastomer has a content of polyether component (A) in a range from 50 to 95 weight %, and the thermoplastic elastomer has a glass transition temperature of not more than  $-20^\circ\text{C}$ .

**14. (Previously presented)** A method for producing a thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1 or 12, which comprises producing a prepolymer by reacting a polyether compound (a) with a poly-isocyanate compound (c), and then reacting the prepolymer with a polyester compound (b).

**15. (Previously presented)** A fiber, comprising a thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1 or 12.

**16. (Original)** A fabric comprising a fiber as claimed in claim 15.

**17. (Previously presented)** An elastomer film or sheet, comprising a thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1 or 12.

**18. (Previously presented)** A method for producing an elastomer film or sheet according to claim 17, which comprises producing a prepolymer by reacting a polyether compound (a) and a poly-isocyanate compound (c), reacting the prepolymer with a polyester compound (b) to form a reaction product, and molding continuously the reaction product.

**19. (Previously presented)** A moisture permeable waterproofing fabric, which is produced by laminating a fabric on at least one side of the elastomer film or sheet as claimed in claim 17.

**20. Previously presented)** A fabric, wherein at least one side of the fabric is coated with a composition containing the thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1 or 12.

**21. (Previously presented)** A moisture permeable waterproofing fabric as claimed in claim 19, wherein said fabric comprises an elastomer fiber.

**22. (Previously presented)** An elastomer film or sheet as claimed in claim 17, having a moisture permeability of not less than  $2,000 \text{ g/m}^2$  (24hr).

**23. (Previously presented)** An article of manufacture, comprising a moisture permeable waterproofing fabric as claimed in claim 19.

**24. (Previously presented)** A molded medical product, obtained by molding the thermoplastic elastomer as claimed in claim 1.

**25. (Previously presented)** A moisture permeable waterproofing fabric as claimed in claim 19, having a moisture permeability not less than  $2,000 \text{ g/m}^2$  (24hr).

**26. (Previously presented)** An article of manufacture as claimed in claim 23, which is a fabric, tent or shoe.